



Wellness gets one step closer to \$11.75

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Senior Asma Hassan gripped the microphone a little tighter than usual, and with a shaking voice looked senators in the eyes, reminding them of six college students who took their own lives on a neighboring college campus. She had just heard the Wellness Services plea for sustainability a final time before a make-or-break vote — one that passed almost unanimously two minutes later.

The 97th Student Senate approved in a 33 “yes”, 3 “no” vote Feb. 25 to increase the designated fee toward Wellness Services an additional \$4.65, which would go into effect the 2020-21 academic year.

The vote came after a 14 minute discussion leading to an emotional testimony from Hassan, who spoke at the meeting as, what she called, a student concerned for campus wellness, outside of the Student Senate president role.

She touched on the importance of services and necessity of sustainability for the office, comparing the situation to a similar case at

Truman State University where services were cut and six suicides later happened on its campus.

“Because they lost their wellness services they lost, also, six lives — six students,” Hassan said. “I don’t want to be in that position.”

“Let’s not short this. Let’s not act like this is not a relevant topic and act like it’s not important,” Hassan said.

After hearing these talking points, the Student Senate approved the proposal from Student Affairs and the senate fee committee. The formal suggestion will be seen by the Board of Regents at its March 3 meeting.

If the Student Senate approved fee is passed by the Board of Regents, students would pay \$11.75 per credit hour toward Wellness Services, a price tag that would match what students are already paying toward Campus Recreation. This means students would begin to pay \$164.50 a semester or \$329.00 per academic year toward Wellness, a number based on the average undergraduate student taking 14 credit hours a semester.

SEE FEE | A4



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Senior Asma Hassan speaks in front of the Student Senate about the proposed Wellness Service fee increase at its regular meeting Feb. 25 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

Student Affairs hires equity coordinator

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Campus News Editor | @SammieCollison

As part of equity’s transition out of the former Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and back into Student Affairs, Will Sabio was hired as assistant vice president of Title IX and equity.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said Sabio was hired in October, but his hiring was not announced publicly until the Spring 2020 Academic Affairs meeting Jan. 10.

Sabio’s position includes investigating Title IX and Title VI reports and ensuring Northwest’s accessibility and accommodations are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Beginning the 2020-21 school year, Sabio said his office will require all students receiving accommodations from the University to recertify annually, meaning students will have to resubmit accommodations requests at the start of every school year, sometimes with updated documentation from healthcare or counseling professionals, in order to receive accommodations.

“It’s a check and balance process,



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN
Will Sabio, who previously worked at Hawaii Pacific University, was hired as Northwest’s vice president of Title IX and equity in October 2019, but his hiring was not publicly announced until Jan. 10.

as opposed to accommodations just rolling over from year to year,” Sabio said. “It should better or best serve students and help them even more so with their success.”

Sabio said the recertification process may come in phases in order to ensure a smooth transition for all students and be fully compliant

with the ADA.

Before taking on the recertification process, Sabio said he wanted to familiarize himself with the community and make himself visible and available on campus. He said it will take time to build credibility and learn about Northwest’s systems, employees and culture.

“With the restructuring, I would say I’m rebuilding credibility for the area,” Sabio said. “I think it’s gone under some different leadership and certainly making clear to the community that this is a go-to area that is important.”

In addition to restructuring Northwest’s compliance to the ADA, Sabio also has the opportunity to reevaluate the University’s approach to Title IX and Title VI, which are federal laws preventing gender-based and race/ethnicity-based discrimination, respectively, in public schools.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Education issued a Dear Colleague Letter, which established that Title IX also encompasses sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, harassment and stalking.

Baker said when evaluating candidates for the position, he wanted someone with experience in Title IX.

“What I wanted to do is make sure we had somebody who was knowledgeable on the compliance and process side, but also can relate to students and sort of thread that needle,” Baker said.

SEE TITLE IX | A4

Football alumnus dies at 29 years old

KENDRICK CALFEE
Community News Editor | @KoalaCalfree

A member of Northwest’s family and former Bearcat football linebacker D.J. Nader died at the age of 29 Feb. 24.

No official details of his death have been released, but head football coach Rich Wright confirmed the loss of the former defensive leader he called a “warrior” in a tweet Feb. 24.

“One of our players left this Earth today far too young,” Wright said. “Our hearts break for his family, but I promise (former defensive coordinator Scott) Botswick met him at heaven’s gate. RIP DJ.”

Wright said he remembers when Northwest recruited Gnader from Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 2009.

Wright said as soon as Gnader traded in his blue uniform for Bearcat green he was no longer a football player, but part of a family and culture that would come to appreciate him just as much as his love for the game.

After his redshirt season in 2009, Gnader quickly became a leading tackler and overall defensive leader for the team.

Playing for the Bearcats for six years during a phase of rebuilding and growth, Gnader became a driving force for the defense, recording 100 tackles in his first full season.

In his second full season, Gnader was named second-team all-MIAA, started in all 13 games and recorded a team-high 96 tackles.

With Gnader on its side, the Bearcat football team won its fourth National Championship in 2013. That year, Gnader received Don Hansen Third Team All-America honors as a linebacker and first-team all MIAA that team’s 15-0 season.

His senior season in 2014, he was named once again all-MIAA.

However, the statistics don’t show how climbing the ladder of success at Northwest wasn’t always easy for Gnader. Wright said Gnader had some hip issues, including a torn

SEE GNADER | A4

Suspect arrested for sexual assault

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Campus News Editor | @SammieCollison

A sexual assault was reported to the University Police Department at 1:08 a.m. Feb. 22 at Millikan Hall.

University Police Chief Clarence Green said the suspect was identified at the scene and taken into custody. He said a Clery Report was not issued to students because there was no apparent danger to the student body following the incident.

Green said UPD is working with the survivor to gather facts, and the case will be taken to Nodaway County Prosecuting Attorney Robert Rice.

Rice could not be reached for comment in time for publication.

IN THE NEWS A4 Diversity Leadership Conference

Diversity and Inclusion’s first conference raises difficult conversations about the underrepresented experience.

IN THE NEWS A2 Splash ‘n’ Play

Maryville couple donates to build zero-depth water park at the intersection of South Munn Avenue and Highway V.

IN A&E

Matt Johnson had an agenda when he ran for city council. Now, he’s just trying to help.

A7 The councilman

IN SPORTS

Northwest men’s basketball beat Missouri Western in blowout fashion in the MIAA rivalry matchup.

A3 Answering the bell



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CITY OF MARYVILLE | SUBMITTED

The latest concept sketches of the Thompson Splash ‘N’ Play, which show the 4,212 square foot splash pad. City Manager Greg McDanel said the renderings are awaiting official approval.

Local couple donates to build splash park

KENDRICK CALFEE
Community News Editor | @KoalaCalfree

Maryville continues to plan for a new park set to open summer 2020 following a donation made by two life-long community members.

Project details of the Thomson Splash ‘N’ Play, were outlined by the city at its Feb. 24 city council meeting. Maryville Parks and Recreation is working with donors Dick and Kay Thomson to create the kind of park the donors had in mind, one featuring water spraying equipment, a splash pad, musical features and a large area for children to cool down in the summer months free of charge.

The total cost of the project’s construction is still in discussion, but it will come at zero cost to the city as Dick and Kay Thomson will provide all funding for the building of the park and the land to build it on.

“We’ve been very blessed by the Maryville community and want to give back,” Dick Thomson said in a city press release.

The city will pay for water and maintenance of the park, which will sit on the corner of South Munn Avenue and Highway V.

Like other parks in the city, it will feature restrooms, shade structures and benches, but special landscaping will be added to fit the needs of the water filtration system that will accompany a zero-depth splash pad.

Maryville Parks and Recreation will maintain and operate the park, which will include frequent checking and testing of the water and filter system for the splash pad, cleaning the facility and general maintenance that arises in its operation.

Maryville Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Stubblefield said that the uniqueness of the park, and what it will provide for citizens, outweighs the concern of more responsibility in the hands of Maryville Parks and Recreation.

At the Feb. 24 city council meeting, Stubblefield said the maintenance would be similar to testing at the Maryville Aquatic Center.

“We are going to test the water every two hours, just like at the pool,” Stubblefield said. “We are going to have a larger water bill ... and some added expense to our budget, but I feel comfortable with what we are doing.”

Overall dimensions of the splash

pad would be 78 feet by 54 feet, as provided by conceptual sketches made by city staff. Totalling 4,212 square feet, the splash pad aims to provide adequate space for comfortable play and plenty of water equipment.

Long-term aspirations of the park include play equipment separate from the splash pad, like what most parks in Maryville already consist of, and the building of restroom facilities. The city has begun preliminary discussions with instructors of the Northwest Technical School about students assisting in the building of the additional features, which is one of several options at the city’s disposal.

Dick and Kay Thomson, who recently celebrated their 80th birthdays, said they decided to donate the money and land so Maryville could have a new kind of park for youth.

“We are so happy to add to the vitality of Maryville with this splash park,” Kay Thomson said.

The park will be free admission, a component the Thomsons said would appeal to people of all ages, abilities, disabilities and incomes.

As of Feb. 24, the city is in the



CITY OF MARYVILLE | SUBMITTED

The park’s equipment supplier Aquatix created the sketched renditions for the city. Construction on the new park could begin as soon as April 2020.

process of drafting detailed plans for land grading to fit the park’s landscaping needs, including elevation of the allotted area at least two feet for concrete placement.

City Manager Greg McDanel said once official construction of the project begins, the park should be completed quickly.

“(The construction process) should take 75 to 90 days,” McDanel said. “It’s really just about getting started now.”

McDanel said the park is a

way local government is working with citizens to make progress in the community.

“We are fortunate that the family is investing to put in the circulation system,” McDanel said. “It’s going to help the whole process.”

The city has applied part of the overall grant donation toward legitimate progress of the park, which could come in the form of construction by April and predicted completion by summer.

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ESAs on rise in dorms

ASHLEY LOSSON
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Emotional support animals have been becoming more common on campus for the past three years.

Mike Miller, the assistant director of Residential Life, is in charge of overseeing all of the residential life programs and takes part in overseeing which ESAs are granted and which ones aren't.

"Every year for the past three years, it has gone up, so like, 50 to 100," Miller said.

ESAs are animals that provide emotional support and comfort for patients. They are commonly used to help treat and support people who have a mental illness, such as anxiety or depression. Any student on campus is eligible for an ESA as long as the student can prove their need for the ESA.

According to ESA Doctors, ESAs can benefit people in numerous ways. Some of them being an increase in social skills, an increase in self-esteem and providing a sense of comfort in a new environment.

The Assistance Animal Policy, located on Northwest's website, defines an assistance animal as an animal that is prescribed by a mental health professional in order to provide emotional support for the student.

The process of getting an ESA starts with the Accessibility and Accommodations Office. Students start by writing a request stating

why they need the ESA and provide current documentation from their current healthcare provider.

After this, Accessibility and Accommodations will contact the student and review the paperwork while also being reviewed by the Learning Assistance Providers/Services Committee. If the accommodation is granted, the student is then directed to the area coordinator for Residential Life.

Residential Life is in charge of making sure all of the ESAs shots are taken care of, getting paperwork that proves the animal is flea and tick free and ensuring that the animal is registered as an ESA.

According to an article done by the Chicago Tribune, ESAs do help people as long as they're trained to. If untrained, they can pose problems to others around them, especially in a dorm setting.

Mike Miller had some more insight on how the process goes.

"They (the student bringing in the ESA) let their roommate or roommates know that they are bringing an ESA, and those roommates have to let us know that they're okay with it," Miller said.

In an instance where the roommate isn't okay with an ESA being in a room, both parties would meet with Residential Life to come to an arrangement that works for both.

Other students on the floor that could be affected by the ESA are responsible for bringing up any problems that they have with the

person bringing in the ESA after it has moved in.

"They can always bring it up to us and we will always hear those situations out," Miller said, "but that student's requirement for having an ESA will be covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990."

The American Disability Act is a federal law that prohibits the discrimination towards someone for a disability. Since ESAs fall under this, if another student on the floor has a problem, it is recommended that they move rooms.

In a case where a student is allergic to the ESA, the ESA stays unless the student has filed the allergy with Accessibility and Accommodations.

According to the Real ESA Letter, dogs and cats are the most common ESAs to have. Northwest allows all dogs and cats as ESAs as long as they do not cause too much disturbance.

"When you're thinking ESAs, cats and dogs are normal," Miller said. "Rabbits are one that we've had. ... I believe the conversation has arisen about a lizard."

The only animals that Accessibility and Accommodations and Residential Life don't approve of as ESAs are those considered dangerous and exotic.

Northwest has also recently added an age limit for ESAs. They can't be young puppies, in order to avoid having conflicts with quiet hours and courtesy hours.



ABIGAYLE RUSH | NW MISSOURIAN
Assistant Director of Residential Life Mike Miller said Northwest has seen an increase in emotional support animals on campus each year over the last three years. There are more than 50 support animals on campus.

Conduct policy revisited in town hall

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Campus News Editor | @SammieCollison

In an effort to avoid a repeat of the "angst" from when Student Affairs announced its Student Organizations Conduct Policy and corresponding policy violation process in 2018, Student Affairs held a town hall to review the policy and take questions from student leaders.

The town hall was hosted by Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Kori Hoffmann Feb. 20 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom. The town hall was moderated by Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker, Student Senate President senior Asma Hassan, Panhellenic Council President senior Lizzy Burley and former Interfraternity Council President senior Wyatt Suhr.

Around 10 people attended the

town hall, including a mix of students and faculty advisers.

Hoffmann began the town hall by outlining the policy and the disciplinary process students go through if they violate the code of conduct while acting on behalf of a student organization.

To distinguish whether a conduct violation is the responsibility of an individual or an organization, Hoffmann gave 12 qualifiers ranging from the student organization's involvement in hosting the event to an attendee's impression of the event's association with an organization. However, he specified that there are guidelines, and there are other ways a violation could be considered under the organizational code of conduct.

A major aspect of the policy is the way it bridges the gap between

the University and Greek Life's national risk management programs. Hoffmann said the national chapters generally handle violations associated with Greek Life, but if a violation is considered major — if it breaks the law and/or involves student safety — then Student Affairs works with that national chapter to investigate the violation and establish sanctions.

Baker said around five student organizations have gone through the student organization policy violation process, but none have gone to the conduct board. This is because of a provision in the policy that if the accused party meets with Baker and admits responsibility, Baker can establish sanctions against the organization without an official hearing.

One aspect of the process that

has not been fleshed out is a standard for assigning sanctions against a student organization.

Hoffmann said in the next six months to a year, Student Affairs is looking to establish sanction guidelines and suggestions corresponding to the type and severity of the violation. He said the guidelines will consider prior incidents, whether the organization cooperates with the investigation process and the degree of harm done to others.

Suhr and Burley said although the policy had the perception of targeting Greek Life when it was first proposed, they have not had issues with it since it was approved by the Board of Regents.

"My experience with it was, for the most part, relatively effortless," Suhr said. "There was not really

any conflict. Most of the situations I feel are going to be concrete in terms of (whether the violation is) major or minor."

Suhr said the policy has since become habitual, and he said he was grateful to Baker for being open-minded throughout the process of approving the policy.

"Most of the facts when you read through the investigation reports were pretty straight-forward," Burley said. "There were a couple times where people's stories had gotten mixed up, but it was pretty interesting to get to see from a different perspective ... what a student wouldn't normally see."

Because the town hall had such low attendance, the panel was not asked many questions, and the majority of the time was spent outlining the history and contents of the policy.

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POLICE BLOTTERS

for the week of Feb. 20

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Feb. 17
A summons was issued to **Colton J. Emswiler**, 22, for peace disturbance at North Complex.

Feb. 18
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

Feb. 20
A summons was issued to **Marquel D. Petite-Pilgram**, 19, of Kansas City; **Zion Thorton**, 19; **Jason Vaughn**, 20; and **Raishawn Williams**, 19, for possession of marijuana at South Complex.

Feb. 21
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at South Complex.

Feb. 22
There was a closed investigation for five liquor law violations at Perrin Hall.
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Roberta Hall.
There is an open investigation for a sexual assault at Millikan Hall.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Feb. 15
There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 300 block of East Summit Drive.

Feb. 16
There is an ongoing investigation for a lost or stolen license plate on the 1000 block of West 19th Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for fraud on the 1600 block of South Main Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 1100 block of College Avenue.

Feb. 18
There is an ongoing investigation for fraud on the 1200 block of West 19th Street.

Feb. 19
A summons was issued to **Jeremiah L. Holmes**, 22, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.
A summons was issued to **Brian C. Colvin**, 46, for failure to register a motor vehicle and failure to maintain financial responsibility on the 600 block of East Seventh Street.

Feb. 20
A summons was issued to **Rohit Bhatta**, 21, for no valid driver's license, failure to register a motor vehicle and speeding and 1100 block of West 16th Street.

Feb. 21
There is an ongoing investigation for a burglary on the 1900 block of East First Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for an animal bite on the 700 block of East 14th Street.

Feb. 22
There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 300 block of North Market Street.
A summons was issued to **Kayla J. Chapman**, 19, of Treynor, Iowa, for driving while intoxicated, minor in possession, possession of a fake I.D. and failure to maintain the right half of the roadway on the 400 block of North Buchanan Street.

Feb. 23
A summons was issued to **Corbyn M. Guile**, 20, of Trenton, Missouri, for minor in possession and possession of a fake I.D. on the 500 block of North Buchanan Street.

TITLE IX CONTINUED FROM A1

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Sabio's background before higher education was in human resources in New York. He entered the realm of Title IX when he became the assistant director of human resources for compliance and the Title IX coordinator at Niagara County Community College in Sanborn, New York, according to a news release from Hawai'i Pacific University.
Later, he became the Title IX investigator at Buffalo State Col-

FEE CONTINUED FROM A1

There were several avenues Student Senate could have taken for a fee increase, which Off Campus Representative sophomore Joseph Etheridge presented to the floor. These options included five different increase increments: \$2.00, \$3.80, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$4.65, as well as the option to not approve an increase in the fee.

The \$3.80 increase was the second most appealing choice to the majority of senators after the \$4.65, which inevitably passed. However, the \$3.80 interval would have provided almost all of the same services for students minus an extra staff member and shorter sustainability projections.

Representative senior Jacob Wheeler said he believed the \$3.80 raise in the Wellness fee would be adequate for the Wellness Center. Etheridge's presentation included that at \$3.80, the Wellness Center would be sustained for five years.

According to Student Affairs, the \$4.65 fee increase will be sustainable for at least six years taking into account inflation and rising cost of healthcare nationwide, which is a leading cause for the fee increase proposal.

Hassan sat in with the ad hoc fees committee, which hears proposals and conferences with Student Affairs before official suggestions are brought before the Student Senate to consider.

She said after hearing concerns from the Wellness Center, she learned employees at Wellness Services are underpaid for what they provide, and the full \$4.65 increase is the most accommodating and sustainable proposal brought forward.

"I think they should get paid for what they do," Hassan said.

Even as staff are underpaid for their work and service to students, salaries and benefits are the largest financial burden on the Well-

ness Center at its current operational state.

The fiscal year 2019 budget shows a total of \$1,194,819 in salaries and benefits for just the Wellness Services side of operation. The clinic side shows an additional \$118,535 in salaries and benefits paid to employees in the Wellness Center.

The office sees a continual deficit each year with the rising cost of healthcare, as seen in items as simple as cotton swabs and gauze and as complicated as medical professional's benefits. Even with the proposed fee increase, there is no definite way to predict the cost of providing for college student healthcare in the next decade.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker spoke to Student Senate at its Feb. 18 meeting and said the issue of rising costs correlating with lack of funding at wellness centers is not unique to Northwest and is not possible to hire out of.

"If we had 80 counselors on reserve, we would still have a problem with rising mental health issues," Baker said.

Baker went on to explain that since future costs are unpredictable, the possibility of another fee increase is present and something senators would have to consider.

Baker also said the wellness fee has changed and increased over the years for two reasons: specific unmet needs and additional services by the request of students in former years.

Since the wellness designated fee was implemented in 2006, Student Affairs has asked for an increase twice, once in 2014 and now in 2020, all because of rising costs parallel to lack of funding.

Baker said though the fee has increased, and there is a possibility for it to do so again in the future, the funds are going toward services students are vocal about wanting and are in need of.



FILE | NW MISSOURIAN

D.J. Gnader, a linebacker who played for Northwest football from 2009-2014, died unexpectedly Feb. 24 at the age of 29.

GNADER CONTINUED FROM A1

Watching Gnader work through the injury to become the kind of player he was for the team is something Wright said he will continue to remember.

"He was a kid that did a tremendous job of uplifting people around him," Wright said.

University President John Jasinski's son was roommates with Gnader while attending Northwest. Jasinski said many in the Northwest community were touched by Gnader and his family, and that the University sends its condolences to those grieving.

"We wish to uplift Jodi, his mother, his entire family," Jasinski said. "He touched so many of us He impacted so many of us on levels that were focused on passion and being a Bearcat and caring for your brothers and sisters."

Wright also said when coaches are doing a good job, play-

ers become an extended part of their family.

"(Gnader) has been at dinner at my house," Wright said. "We kind of look at this almost like they are our own kids."

Gnader was known by his coaches and teammates for having a charismatic way about him, always wanting to find ways to engage the crowd at football games, as well as people he was with off the field.

Wright stood up in his office with his hands in the air motioning to an imaginary crowd filled with Bearcat fans.

"I'll always remember him doing this," Wright said. "That's who he was — bigger than life."

The Gnader family will hold a visitation from 2-5 p.m. Feb. 29 at Cutler-O'Neill Meyer-Woodring Funeral Home & Crematory in Council Bluffs, Iowa. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. the same day at River Arena on the Iowa Western Community College campus, 2700 College Road.

He said his work has only grown in importance since the #MeToo movement gained mainstream attention in 2017.

"(Since #metoo there has been) more reporting," Sabio said. "Victims feel more empowered to report, and that's the big part. You want to make sure there's always this pathway forward where someone feels comfortable reporting, and it's a judgment-free zone."

Baker said Sabio will also work to improve Northwest's minors on campus policy and work closely with the Behavioral Intervention Team.

"I can assure you that the Wellness Center leadership thinks about every dime they spend for the betterment of our students," Baker said. "I promise it will be spent well and appropriately."

Though the \$4.65 increase is only sustainable for a projected six to eight years, Hassan and the 33 senators who voted to approve the fee increase were confident the highest option was the best choice.

"I am pushing for the full \$4.65. ... (Truman State University) lost their wellness services because they did not act accordingly and they did not act now in the present moment," Hassan said.

At the Feb 25 senate meeting, Student Senate Vice President senior Kirayle Jones said he met with some peers who would like to see extended hours at the Wellness Center, a service not included in the \$4.65 increase proposal.

"Some things come up on the weekend, and so just having maybe a few hours on Saturday and a few hours on Sunday would help alleviate that time," Jones said.

Wilmes heard questions similar to Jones' from other senators concerned about sustainability and services offered with the fee increase at the Feb. 25 senate meeting, several of which had no definitive answers.

"We would have to go back and do the calculations of what it would take to make (extended hours including weekends) work," Wilmes said. "I guess the answer is yes, but we couldn't say what that would look like as of now."

Student Media Representative senior Coralie Hertzog conducted a survey and presented the results to Student Senate before the Feb. 25 vote that included 30 students' opinions on what they would like to see happen with the proposed Wellness fee.

Hertzog said 53% of students who participated in the survey said they would be OK to see the fee raised \$4.65 but would also like the

fee to go toward specific things in the Wellness Center.

Hertzog said 86.67% of the students surveyed said they want this fee to go toward adding more counselors. This was followed closely by the desire for more general health practitioners, then more preventative outreach and women's health care. Grants and renewal of them were last in the order of what students would like to see the fee go to.

"I honestly think if we are going to propose this fee ... it needs to go towards what students need and want," Hertzog said.

Assistant Director of Operations for Wellness Services Evan Rand has worked with the office since 2010 and has seen the rising concern for specified needs being met for students. Much like the requests for certain specialized counselors, Rand said the office has been tasked with providing diverse services while maintaining a sound, sustainable operation.

"Eventually it just gets to a point where you're steadily rising costs meet with your decreasing income and balance," Rand said. "Throughout the course of that we have been able to manage with the same fees schedule, which you wouldn't necessarily see in a private clinical setting."

Rand said he is confident in the most recent fee increase proposal to sustain the Wellness Center and the services it provides. After sitting in with the ad hoc committee evaluating needs of the Wellness Center, he said the largest concern is finding a sustainable model for wellness, so the office is not frequently coming back to Student Senate to discuss needs.

The \$4.65 proposed and Student Senate approved fee increase is expected to allow Wellness a longer duration of operations and meet rising needs of students and college healthcare.

Diversity Leadership Conference sparks difficult conversation

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Campus News Editor I @SammieCollison

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted its first Diversity Leadership Conference for around 50 Northwest students and employees Feb. 22 on the third floor of the J.W. Jones Student Union.

Associate Provost of Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallett said the conference was planned over a year and a half, and he said he plans to grow it to become a regional conference over the next several years.

The conference featured three hour-long sessions followed by a dinner and a keynote address by Georgetown Sociology Professor Michael Eric Dyson.

During each session block, attendees had four session options to choose from, which ranged from career preparation with session leaders like Jill Brown and Travis Kline from career services to research-centric, educational sessions about African American Art, LGBTQ+ experiences in rural towns and women's suffrage in the midwest led by Northwest faculty and students.

Citizens National Bank also held two financial literacy sessions.

In a session called "Grow Your Own: creating a pipeline of educators reflecting students in the classroom," the leaders of the Grow Your Own program out of the Kansas City campus of Northwest discussed what their program does to combat the issue of lack of diversity in the field of education.

Nationwide, 80% of teachers are white and the vast majority are women. This is particularly an issue in the North Kansas City School District, where 91.5% of teachers are white, but only 61.5% of students are white, according to a district survey.

Mark Maus, the executive director of human resources for North Kansas City Schools, said students perform better when they see themselves in their teachers.

"There's not a lot of research on it yet, but there's benefits to white students having teachers of color as well," Maus said.

Even among the packed meeting room of attendees, the majority were white women seeking undergraduate degrees in education or graduate degrees in counseling.

The idea of Grow Your Own is to assist future educators from North Kansas City who are men and/or students of color in becoming teachers and returning to their

home school district through financial assistance, workforce development and a summer field program through Northwest.

The program gets Northwest Kansas City students in classrooms early in their education, similar to the Horace Mann Laboratory School experience Northwest students get at the Maryville campus.

Associate Professor Victoria Seeger said the Grow Your Own program is supposed to be a statewide program, but it receives no state funding and is inconsistently employed throughout Missouri.

Mallett asked why the Grow Your Own program doesn't extend to the Maryville campus, and Seeger said the two students in the program started at the main campus but transferred to the Kansas City campus after their first semester.

"It was absolutely about being a student of color on a white campus," Maus said.

A recurring theme throughout the conference was the challenge of being an underrepresented student on a predominantly white campus, as well as the intersections of race-based disadvantage and other experiences with classism, being LGBTQ+ or first-generation.
Inspired by her doctoral dissertation, Assistant Director of Academic Support Ashley Strickland held a session called "Perceptions of Campus Climate: rural LGBTQ+ student experiences at a rural midwestern university."

Rather than spending the hour reading from her dissertation, Strickland used her research findings as a jumping-off point for discussion about improving the college experience for LGBTQ+ students.

A recurring issue the group tried to come to grips with was the lack of one-size-fits-all solution for student belonging on campus because every LGBTQ+ student is at a different stage in their identity development and has different community needs.

Northwest Kansas City freshman Isael Bautista brought up the opportunity of educating non-LGBTQ+ students by inviting them into groups like Helping Everyone Regardless of Orientation, but there is a tension between that and some students' need to have an LGBTQ+-only space as part of their identity development.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Tubman deserves better than plastic

ZANE CULJAT Columnist @TheMissourian



I thought we stooped low enough as a society years ago, having the mentality that “It’ll only go up from here.” Apparently, I’m dead wrong, once again.

OneUnited Bank, headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, is the nation’s largest African American owned and operated banking institution. OneUnited Bank felt it was only right to honor Harriet Tubman, an abolitionist famous for pioneering nearly two-dozen trips on the Underground Railroad, responsible for the freeing of some 300 Southern slaves in the mid-1800s.

The method the bank chose to pay Tubman homage was less than ideal. Last year, the federal government proposed a bill that would have replaced Andrew Jackson with Tubman’s likeness on the \$20 bill. The bill was well on its way to becoming part of regular circulation, but U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin shot the proposal down last May, citing “potential counterfeiting issues.”

OneUnited thought the next best thing was slapping her picture on a debit card. I don’t know how others might feel about this, but in my mind, that’s beyond culturally insensitive. Come on now — Harriet Tubman deserves much, much more than a piece of plastic.

I get the push for Black History Month — actually, this is part of the “Unapologetically Black” series that OneUnited has been putting together for four years now. The collection features a “King” and “Queen” card, as well as the “Justice,” “Lady Liberty” and “BankBlack” designs. Anyone in their right mind would know full well that an icon such as Tubman should be given much more proper treatment. Start with, oh, I don’t know, maybe putting her on the \$20 already?

The card came under fire mostly for one reason and one reason only: the gesture Tubman is pictured making. According to OneUnited, her arms display the word “love” in sign language. However, if the Marvel film “Black Panther” comes to mind, the connection made isn’t without merit. Several people took to Twitter to bash OneUnited over the supposed “Wakanda Forever” symbol brought to light by the groundbreaking motion picture.

In a statement released by the bank, putting Tubman on a versatile payment method such as a check card will promote her becoming the face of the \$20’s carried around in American wallets. I don’t think even half of Americans know who’s on our various forms of currency to begin with, but I digress.

I completely understand the premise behind wanting to honor such a prestigious and trailblazing figure, but the fact that OneUnited chose to throw her portrait on a slim piece of plastic is asinine. Everyone and their mother knows the impact and magnitude of Tubman’s sacrifices. That magnitude should, at the very least, be taken into account and given something weightier than a card people stick into a reader or ATM to withdraw funds and call it good.

As an alternative, if the \$20 bill initiative doesn’t pass, why not put her on the quarter or 50 cent piece? It might not go noticed by most people, but having your likeness in nickel and copper is a heck of a lot more humbling than a flimsy slab of plastic.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Increase in Wellness fee warranted but overdue

Wellness Services at Northwest is struggling mightily. Wellness Services is being swallowed up by debt, but Student Senate passed a proposed lifeline in its Feb. 25 meeting that could save Wellness Services. It’s about time.

The Wellness fee is \$7.40 per credit hour, and the new proposal would increase the fee to \$4.65 totaling \$11.75. This new fee would prevent Wellness Services from digging into its emergency fund to pay employees, and sustainably fund Wellness for the next five years, Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said.

The fee increase still needs to be approved by the Board of Regents before it will take effect. The decision should be a no-brainer for the Board of Regents, and we implore them to make the right choice.

Student health is paramount to the success and sustainability of any university, and Northwest has clearly dropped the ball on that important task thus far. Wellness Services has long been handicapped by limited funding, which leads to an underpaid and overworked staff, long student wait times and a lack of access to the care students need for both mental and physical health.

Wellness Services has fallen into debt because of a two-front issue. Healthcare costs across the country are rising at rapid rates and state funding is not. Wellness brought in \$1,062,678 in revenue, which sounds pretty profitable. However, the cost of employee salaries and benefits are \$1,194,819. Under the current fee, Wellness has been unable to pay for staff let alone other essentials, without dipping into an emergency fund.

Voting for an increase in fees normally

sounds bad for the students of a university, but this fee is important enough to supersede that norm. The fee increase will bring the Wellness fee on equal standing with the Campus Recreation fee at \$11.75. The cost of potentially lifesaving counseling for a student struggling with mental health is easily worth the same fee as the one paying employees in the Foster Fitness Center.

Wellness has been unable to perform the duties they are on campus for in the first place, and this fee will help them do that. The fee could allow student wait times to drop dramatically and counselors to properly evaluate and care for their patients.

The U.S. is experiencing a crisis of mental health. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for those aged 10-24 in the U.S. as of 2017, the latest year complete data is available, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Research shows that most individuals that commit suicide seek professional help 30 days before their death, Executive Director and Assistant Vice President of Health and Wellness Gerald Wilmes said.

The clogging of the system and extended wait times is not allowing Wellness Services to operate at its best capacity, Wilmes said, which could eventually have serious ramifications if there have not been some already. The fee increase could allow Wellness to hire another counselor and help expedite the wait times for counseling which could have life-saving effects.

The University has already been lethargic in its response and if Northwest truly cares about students first, the Board of Regents will pass the fee increase with no hesitation.

YOUR VIEW:

Do you support an increase to the Wellness fee? Why?



“I think it’s a good idea. ... Especially in college, ... (there are) things that people are afraid to talk about, so I think if people have more support then they would be more willing to talk about it.”

- Cheyenne Hellebust | Junior Mass Media: Applied Advertising



“It just kinda helps at the end of the day, if it is going to get more people in the Wellness Center and if they have to extend the Wellness Center hours so that everyone can get treated at whatever time they feel like.”

-Ayomide Popoola | Junior International Business



“If we are getting more for our money then it is a decent change. ... If it is helping other people getting what they need, there’s nothing wrong with getting a few more medical staff and counselors.”

-Ben Hargrave | Junior Theatre: Technical Theatre

Save democracy, vote on paper ballots

NATHAN ENGLISH Opinion Editor @ThananEnglish



A look at society today reveals a desire to go back to when times were simpler — I guess that’s the 1980s? One thing no one should want from the 1980s is the Cold War, but the way that Russia is currently meddling with our election, it seems we are heading that way. There is a simple way everyday Americans can fight back against the creeping Russian influence: vote using a paper ballot.

Computers and electronic software are flawed. This isn’t news to anyone that has ever had to use Internet Explorer or followed the 2020 Iowa caucuses, but technology is imperfect. For that reason, it makes sense to vote via paper ballot, but with Russia openly trying to disrupt

democracy in the 2020 elections, it only makes more sense to cast a ballot on wood pulp instead of a machine.

The “New Age Cold War” is very different from its 20th-century predecessor. The fear is not that the Russians could reduce the U.S. to a radioactive wasteland, but that Russia could sow disunion and divide America, slowly chipping away at the foundations of the U.S. system. This may all seem far-fetched and hyperbolic, but there are vast amounts of evidence to support that Russia is taking this action.

I know most people would like to forget 2016, but we learned a very important thing from that election. Russia will go to great lengths to mess with U.S. sovereignty. The Senate Committee on Intelligence investigated Russian interference in the 2016 election and found that Russia may have been caught intentionally med-

dling, to sow doubt in future elections.

“Russia may have been probing vulnerabilities in voting systems to exploit later,” the report said.

This is terrifying and who knows whether Russia found out what they could exploit in our system for the 2020 election. Russia has already begun campaigns with trolls and the dissemination of fake information just like they did four years prior.

This all seems like an issue that would be impossible for everyday people to have an impact on, but that’s the opposite of the truth.

Moscow can’t hack paper, and they can’t really hack what counts paper ballots either. The most common way paper ballots are counted is with an optical scan machine. The machine scans the paper for a poll worker who then checks to make sure the

machine’s readings are correct. This also means that the paper ballots can easily be recounted if there is machine failure, which adds another level of security.

Paper is not infallible as many saw in the 2000 presidential election with the incident with chads. A chad is the part of the paper that is punched out on a ballot. Some chads were not fully punched out, leading to a disagreement regarding how those votes should be tabulated. In the end, the Supreme Court stepped in and settled the election in favor of former president George W. Bush.

The 2000 election debacle was a large reason for a push in better technology at the polls, but it seems time to go the other way. Putin wants us to vote using a machine, and that’s reason enough to vote on paper. Anything to stop Russian interference helps America.

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By MetroCreative

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HOROSCOPE

By MetroCreative

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you are seeking success but are frustrated by a lack of results. Explore some new ways to approach your goals, and your mood can improve.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, sometimes the road you are traveling on has an unexpected detour. Rather than get frustrated by the situation, enjoy the new scenery that comes along the way.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, the more research you do, the more secure you will feel with your decisions. You may have to delve a little further into a decision in the days to come.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Your career is about to take a unique turn, Cancer. However, you may have to devote some more of your personal time to be able to handle the new responsibilities.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Whatever problems have cropped up around the house can be easily remedied, Leo. There is no need to stress about them. Instead, get a new perspective.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Friendly and approachable is what you need to be this week, Virgo. Someone may be watching you carefully, and you need to be mindful of perceptions.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you’re all revved up and ready to go but really have no solid destination. Don’t fret. Some inspiration will soon come to you and guide your path.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Pay attention to all of the small details, as they help complete the bigger picture, Scorpio. This involves dotting every “i” and crossing every “t.” Follow up on all loose ends.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, express how you are feeling, even if all of your beliefs aren’t popular with everyone. Don’t worry; there are many people who are in your corner.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Don’t be intimidated by other people who think they have all of the answers. Be bold and your assertive attitude will soon lead to positive results.

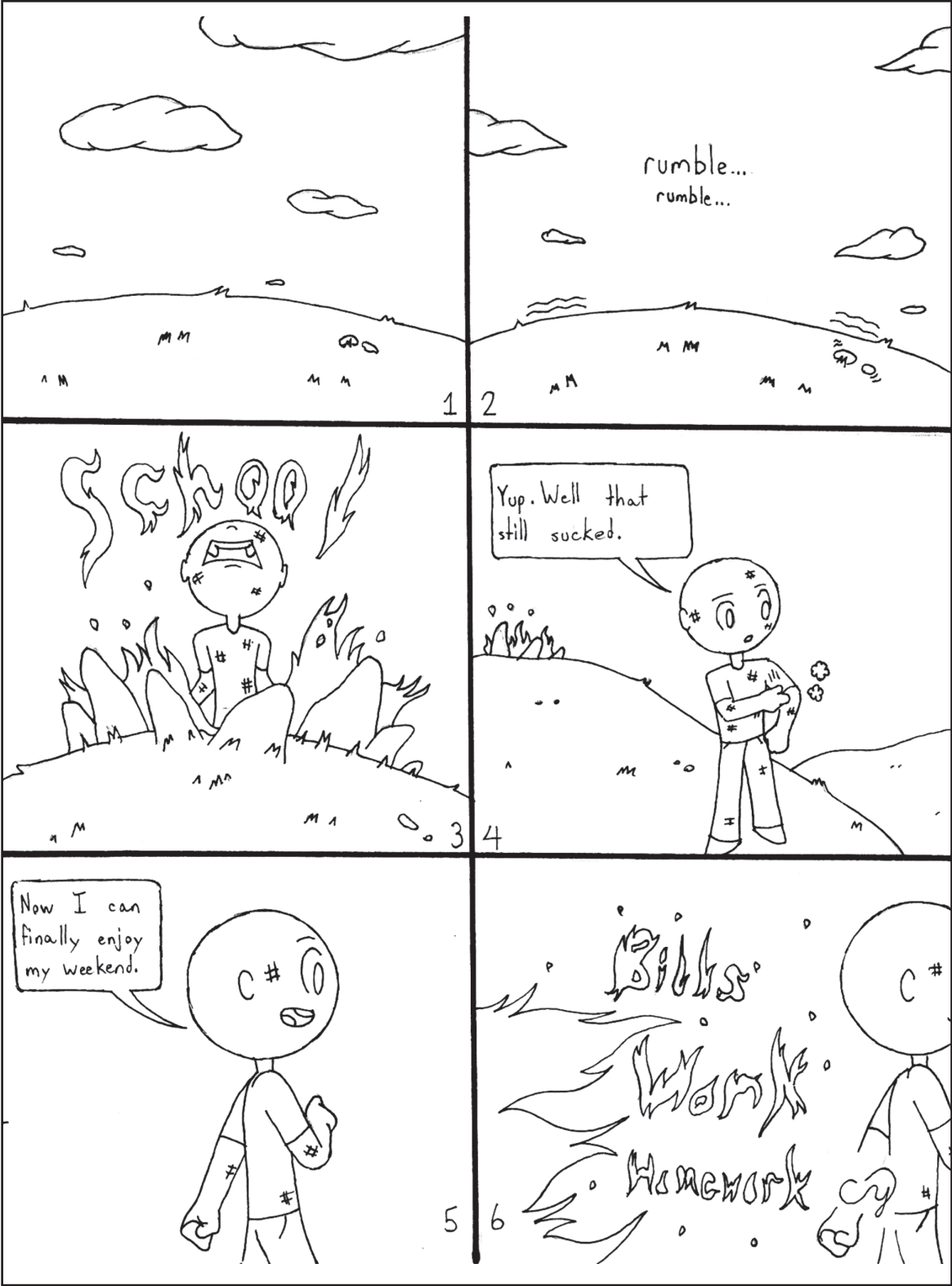
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Taking each day as it comes without thinking too much about where you are going could be a great strategy right now, Aquarius. Overthinking things could be a recipe for trouble.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

It is one thing to have big ideas, but quite another to put plans into action, Pisces. You are ready to step up this week and make things happen.

Work weekend



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

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CROSSWORD

By MetroCreative

Last Week’s Solutions

9	1	6	7	2	8	3	5	4
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CLUES ACROSS

- Stain one's hands
- Subdivision
- A passage to be performed slow
- Invests in little enterprises
- Medians
- Member of the giraffe family
- Makes official
- Choose in an election
- Hill or rocky peak
- Member of an ancient Iranian people
- Crest of a hill
- Small, faint constellation
- Cultivated from crops that yield oil
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Hollywood tough guy
- Chinese drums
- Merits
- Indicates center
- Increases motor speed
- Mentally fit
- BBQ favorite
- Wings
- Female parents
- Marks left from wounds
- Softened by soaking in liquid
- They resist authority (slang)
- Formats
- Many subconsciousnesses
- Vogues

CLUES DOWN

- Mental object
- Blackbird
- Undergarments
- Old cloth
- One from Utah
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Become less intense
- Developed to readiness
- Defunct phone company
- About Freemason

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- Taking everything into account
- Famed Czech engineer
- Impress into silence
- Boxing term
- Marketplaces
- Pounds per square inch
- Locomotives
- Short musical composition
- Football position (abbr.)
- Heavyhearted
- Denotes particular region
- Famed NHLer
- Ingested too much
- Formulates
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Broad, shallow craters
- Thick cuts
- Breezed through
- Breakfast is one
- “Rule, Britannia” composer
- Periodicals (slang)
- Indian title of respect
- More (Spanish)
- Creation
- A loud utterance



KENDRICK CALFEE | NW MISSOURIAN
Matt Johnson and other council members and city officials toured Maryville’s water treatment facility Feb. 10 in the wake of the city’s renewed algae bloom.



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN
Matt Johnson, a city councilman, attended a Northwest basketball game with other members of the council in January, including Mayor Rachael Martin.

The introvert who’s faking it

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

He had taken a liking to the nearly-indestructible eyeglasses brand he had been sporting for years, but Matt Johnson grew annoyed by the need to replace them so frequently. Every six months or so, the black paint would wear off certain parts of his frames, leaving him a victim of “planned obsolescence,” he said, forcing him into purchasing a new pair.

And then Johnson, a history instructor at Northwest, realized the black paint on his glasses was coating a gray frame, so he borrowed his wife’s nail polish remover and removed the paint that used to wear off with sweat. He wore the gray pair for two years before he broke them while showing a group of colleagues how flexible they were, bending one of the pair’s temples far enough that the nearly-indestructible eyeglasses were destroyed.

By then, Johnson said, he was used to having gray, “hip” glasses, so the 47-year-old shopped online for a new pair. He’s been wearing them since.

“And that’s basically the story,” Johnson said, “of why I have gray glasses.”

Johnson had no interest in telling the story of why he has gray glasses. He had mostly no interest in telling any story Feb. 18. He’s an introvert that fakes being an extrovert, he said, as he told stories anyway, sitting behind a desktop scattered with pages of notes and littered with novelties like a model firetruck and a Lego Spongebob exhibition, a gift from his daughter. Essentials, he called them.

As he recounted his journey to Northwest, described his introduction to the fire department where he volunteers, recapped his first 22 months on Maryville’s city council, and as he defended his choice in eyewear, Johnson’s attire said more about his style than he could, a style based more in functionality than anything.

He wore Italian boots — a military surplus pair that he bought 10 years ago. He wore Wrangler pants, made of flexible fabric and available at Walmart. They fit when he weighed 227 pounds last winter. They fit Feb. 18, when he weighed 198. He wore a denim shirt, a staple in his own closet since he was in high school in the early ’90s, he said.

Johnson doesn’t pretend to not care about what others think of him, he said, but he cares more about the practicality of his outfit than he does its optics. Johnson is this way with everything, it seems.

“Utility is its own aesthetic,” Johnson said, as he tapped the surface of his cluttered desk within the walls of his cramped office. “Let’s go with that.”

Johnson doesn’t often dress much like a professor or a city councilman or a volunteer firefighter. His style doesn’t scream “middle-aged father of two.” But Johnson is all of these things, though he didn’t intend on being most of them.

After graduating high school in Madrid, Iowa, in the early ’90s, Johnson followed his high school girlfriend to college at Northwest, mostly because he wasn’t sure what he wanted to do. He’d heard good things about the University. They had been dating since Oct. 17, 1990. It made sense.

It worked out, Johnson said. He wound up working his way from a position as an overload instruc-

Matt Johnson is out of place on the city council, but he is trying to help

tor, which he filled after graduating in 1996, to a full-time instructor, a role he’s served in for more than two decades. And that date — Oct. 17, 1990 — is engraved on a decorative sign inside his house near Mulberry, the one he shares with his former high school girlfriend, Danielle.

“Now that girlfriend’s my wife,” Johnson said. “We’re high school sweethearts. It’s that whole sappy thing.”

Sticking around Maryville after graduation was not the plan, Johnson said.

dual purpose as an ode to his marriage which is nearing its 25th anniversary. And there’s a tattoo that reads “Live death whispers for I am coming.”

“And everybody says, ‘Oh my God, that’s dark,’” Johnson said. “Well, it’s just a different version of a country song ‘Live Like You Were Dying.’”

The last tattoo on Johnson’s left arm is of the American flag, depicted in plain black ink, save for a red line that consumes one of the flag’s stripes. It’s a firefighter’s flag, Johnson said, with the red stripe representing fallen firefighters.

of the council’s successes since his election in April 2018. He won’t take the sole blame for any failures, either. But he’s spent his 22 months on council working to take action on matters like approving the building of a new Maryville public safety facility and negotiation of a join 911 operating center — issues that matter to firefighters.

“I had an agenda,” Johnson said. “People talk about agendas in politics as if they’re a bad thing. I don’t think they are. ... I am distrustful of people that say they don’t have an agenda. What I hear is, ‘I don’t have a plan,’ or ‘I don’t want to tell you my plan.’”



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN
Matt Johnson, a history instructor at Northwest and a volunteer fireman, drinks his daily coffee from a cup he found at a condemned house during a department training session several years ago.

He wanted to be a CIA agent, at first, but he realized life as a CIA agent wasn’t conducive to a healthy marriage, nor would it allow him to be an involved father. He wanted a healthy marriage and to be an involved father more than he wanted to be a CIA agent.

Johnson’s family is the single most important thing in the world to him, Dawn Gilley, a colleague said. He has reminders of it inked permanently on his left arm, where he has more tattoos than the average professor or councilman.

Johnson groaned at the notion of showing off and explaining each of his tattoos before showing off and explaining each of his tattoos. There’s a compass rose, the first one he ever got. There are short, 900-year-old poems scribbled on his right arm.

There’s a figurine of a couple on his left arm, one copied from a necklace Johnson bought his wife. There’s the Brooklyn Bridge for his daughter, Brooklyn. There’s the Orion constellation for his son, Hunter. There’s a full moon because Johnson likes full moons, he said, though it serves a

Johnson became a volunteer firefighter at 39 years old, partly because he felt an innate desire to serve and partly because he was seeking an adrenaline dump.

“Call it a weird midlife crisis, but I went out and bought an old Jeep and joined the fire department,” Johnson said. “It’s a lot better than other options I could have for a midlife crisis, you know. My wife was pretty cool with that.”

And that’s at least partly why Johnson’s decision to mostly step back from the department, an intermittent decrease in activity that started in the spring of 2018, came as a surprise to those around him. But there was practicality within the decision. There was a usefulness.

After working as a volunteer firefighter for more than a half-decade, Johnson found the best way to serve the department was to do so on Maryville’s city council. And so after much deliberation and with a certain degree of dread, he launched a campaign built on transparency, leaning on a platform made up of issues that mattered to Johnson.

Johnson won’t take credit for any

Much of why Johnson ran for office in the first place has already been accomplished, with still a year left on his first term. At times, he has been adversarial in his seat on the council, recently voting against a short-term rental application that passed 3-1. He doesn’t have a problem voting his conscience or voting on principle, even when his conscience and principles don’t align with what’s popular.

The whole point, he said, is participation in democracy. He was bugged by the notion of changing even a minor aspect of the fabric of Maryville for a citizen of a different city — it’s an issue that’s bothered him since he moved to Maryville more than two decades ago. But he’s more bugged by those who don’t participate in the process, by those who fail to understand Maryville’s government is predominantly full of people who are doing their best. Johnson is striving to be one of those people.

“If you don’t participate, somebody’s going to talk for you,” Johnson said. “...And if you don’t vote,

nobody cares about your opinion.”

Johnson’s commitment to principle, one he said he hopes is steadfast, is perhaps why Gilley said, in hindsight, his city council bid made “perfect sense.” He had goals he wanted to accomplish, both for himself and for the fire department. He saw an opening. He ran. And with four candidates vying for two positions last April, he earned more votes than any other candidate.

Johnson said he isn’t sure yet if he’ll run for reelection when his first term ends in 2021, but the Bob Dylan poster that takes up much of the west wall of his office suggests he will.

There are two things Johnson has identified as reasons for a potential reelection campaign. Maryville’s fire department has one ladder truck, one purchased 40 years ago in the aftermath of Northwest’s Administration Building fire that nearly caused the campus to close its doors, one that serves more as an antique than it does functioning firetruck.

And, Johnson said, there is a lack of mental health services available to citizens within Maryville and all of Nodaway County. The Bob Dylan poster in Johnson’s office was a gift from his best friend, Josh Vinzant, who killed himself 13 years ago.

The city knows, Johnson said, the fire department’s current ladder truck isn’t adequate. He would rather replace it now than answer the community later in the potential wake of an avoidable tragedy. The same logic applies to his quest for improved mental health services in the city. He doesn’t want his kids to wonder what could have been, something he has grappled with for more than a decade.

“I don’t want them to ever have to go through the pain of losing their best friend,” Johnson said. “It sucked. It sucks. It still does.”

Sitting in his worn desk chair, Johnson considers himself lucky.

He is lucky to have made it this far, he said. He is lucky to be a professor at Northwest, he said. He stumbled into a job in academia as a mostly-unqualified graduate student. He sees the resumes of new hires within the history department and wonders how he got to be where he is.

And while he is perhaps slow to admit it, Johnson is lucky to be on the city council. He is voting on ordinances that directly affect himself and the department he serves. He is speaking for a body of citizens he aims to be in tune with. He is trying to use his platform to make a difference before it’s too late.

“It’s things like that,” Gilley said. “He understands that it’s not always about the many; sometimes it is about the few.”

Perhaps that’s why Johnson still sees himself as useful on the council, why he’ll likely run for reelection next year. He is the introverted councilman speaking on behalf of firefighters and professors and husbands and fathers and citizens across the city. As much as he dreads the attention that comes with his position, there is utility in what he’s done and what he’s doing. And he still has work to do.



MARTINA PASCUZZO | NW MISSOURIAN
Theatre Northwest performed an adaptation of Dylan Thomas’ “Under Milk Wood,” a play that was originally voice-only production, Feb. 20-23. Northwest’s adaption of the play involved 37 actors.

Northwest presents second performance in two weeks

ABBEY HUGO
Copy Editor | @abbey_hugo

After director and theater professor Theophil Ross spent over six months adapting the voice-only play for live theater, Theatre Northwest performed Dylan Thomas’ “Under Milk Wood” Feb. 20-23. This type of adaptation is sometimes called interpreter’s theatre, which Ross defined in the program as “an art form which takes literature not written for the stage and physicalizes it for a representational production before a live audience.” This style of theater leaves much up to the audience’s imagination and interpretation. “It allows — or I’d say actually requires — that the audience get involved in the production; the audience fills in the blank,” Ross said. “We’re telling them things that are happening, and suggesting just minor action, a new odds, what they can be seeing, and then the audience sees the rest of it in their mind. And so it ends up being a slightly different experience for each person in the audience because we all see it differently.” While many interpreter’s theatre productions are commonly performed with no set or costumes, Northwest Theatre incorporated a simplistic set and costumes to further identify characters.

There were about a dozen small booths or rooms, each with a couple different establishing props or decor items, separated by small half walls. They formed a circle with the characters facing toward the center. Many of the characters stayed within their respective settings for the entirety of the play, standing still and observing for much of it. According to the program, the original playwright intended for the show to invite you to “come to know the town as an inhabitant.” It brings the audience into the lives of the characters in the village of Llareggub for one day. It began with their dreams. Stars were projected onto a thin curtain that hung above the stage, and actor’s faces would glow through the curtain to demonstrate their appearance in the dreams of the townsfolk below. The narrator described the thoughts and imaginary within their dreams. It then transitioned into the day and finished with a return to the night, relying heavily on the actors’ voices and the narrator to fill in any gaps in the actions or atmosphere throughout. “We sort of made everything possible, the whole town of Llareggub, come alive, in a sort of way that was never expected,” said Samir Sedky, a freshman who played Sinbad Sailor, a bartender

in love with two women. The audience was not only mentally transported to this village but was also physically only a couple feet away. Chairs surrounded all four sides of the show, with people sitting at the same level as the characters. Freshman Christina Short, who plays Lily Smalls, a maid dreaming of a more glamorous life, said having the audience so close in every direction was quite the adjustment. “It was really weird and almost uncomfortable at first to be that close; you kind of feel exposed and like they can see you,” Short said. “It was difficult because I’ve never been used to trying to project so everyone around me, behind me, can hear me instead of just in front of me.” The original play featured 69 characters, with actors often playing multiple parts. Northwest’s edition featured 37 characters, with each actor playing one role, which is still a much larger cast size than usual for Theatre Northwest. Ross chose a production with a large cast size to provide the opportunity for many students to get involved, especially those who may not be musically inclined and therefore may not be involved in Theatre Northwest’s upcoming biggest show of the semester, “Into the Woods.”

Campus hosts music concert, clinic

SARA ROBKE
A&E Reporter I | @TheMissourian

The saxophone blared as the musician’s fingers danced across the keys. Brett Jackson, the tenor-sax player of The Project H, played until his face turned red. His solo rang through the theater as he played and played, ending the performance with a high-pitched note. The Project H, a group of young musicians from Kansas City, Missouri, played for the Awards Concert at the Jazz Festival Feb. 21 in the Charles Johnson Theatre. This seven-player jazz group only creates original pieces, mostly written by Ryan Heinlein, the trombone player. William Richardson, a music professor who teaches applied trumpet and Northwest Jazz Ensemble, said that when he first saw The Project H, he thought they should play for the festival. “I heard them in the Blue Room in Kansas City,” Richardson said. “I was blown away by their music.” The Northwest Jazz Festival has been occurring annually for close to 40 years. This year, it brought 32 groups, including both high school and middle school ensembles. Three buildings were used as concert sites to accommodate the groups. This included Maryville High School, The Olive Deluce Fine Arts Building and the Ron Houston Performing Arts Center.

Throughout the day of the festival, Richardson was organizing the Jazz Ensemble performance at noon. Then at 12:45 p.m., clinics started in the Fine Arts building. “Clinics are a teaching session,” Richardson said. “The Project H is also involved in that.”

Each performer of The Project H would take high school or middle school players of the same instrument and have a teaching session with them. Richardson said that preparing for the festival starts a year in advance. The date of the Jazz Festival is set in the spring while starting to accept registrations for the fall. “There are a lot of moving pieces,” Richardson said. The judges of the Festival are included in those moving pieces. There are three judges in each room during performances. Each judge has a particular area that they focus on. This allows for multiple perspectives when evaluating a piece of music. Other moving pieces include collecting points for each group and organizing at the end of the day. Even though the Jazz Festival is a competitive performance, not everyone competes. Some of the groups would only like comments or suggestions on their music for improvement.

Each building ran concerts all day, bringing the festival to a close at the Olive Deluce Fine Arts Building at 5 p.m. when The Project H performed and awards were announced. In first place in the middle school division was Martin City Middle School Jazz Ensemble. In the combo division, Park Hill Jazz Combo 1 won first place. In the high school division, Raymore-Peculiar Jazz Band 2 won first place. In first place in the Class 2 division was South Harrison Jazz Band. In first place in the Class 3 division was Maryville High Spoofhound Jazz Ensemble. In Class 4, Platte County Jazz Ensemble won first place. In first place in the Class 5 division was Central Jazz Ensemble. “Students like to be a part of jazz,” Richardson said. “It offers opportunities through experience.” The College of Arts and Sciences department and the Music Arts Council were able to bring in The Project H to perform through the Guest Artist Fund.

THE STROLL- Your Bearcat has a pro tip for you

Let’s talk about the biggest win-win scenario on campus: Starbucks’ free coffee after 9 p.m. Didn’t know that was a thing? Clearly not utilizing your resources. Never was there a bigger missed opportunity than being anywhere

within a 5-mile radius, which is conveniently the entire diameter of Maryville, of free coffee and then turning it down. “But it’s after 9 p.m.! I can’t drink coffee past 8 a.m. without being up all night!” Can’t relate.

But if that’s you, it seems like the second biggest missed opportunity around is the chance to utilize those extra hours during the night you’ve been wasting sleeping. Plus, by the rules of reduce, reuse, recycle, it’s saving the turtles, and by the number of fancy straws around, clearly we’re really passionate about that. OK, can’t confirm it saves the turtles, but after watching “Nemo,” can’t imagine the leftover coffee goes any-

where other than the ocean. So really, every cup you make is one more cup not going to over-caffeinate a bunch of sea turtles. Not willing to sacrifice for the turtles? That’s cool; that passion would be better placed towards coffee anyways. *The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian. Submit a Stroller to northwestmissourian@gmail.com*

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Ryan Hawkins dunks in Northwest men’s basketball’s 9-point win over Pittsburg State Feb. 22 at Bearcat Arena. Hawkins led all scorers in the matchup with 25 points.

BLOWOUT
CONTINUED FROM A12

“We prepared for this game,” said Trevor Hudgins, the sophomore guard who moved to 4-0 in his career against Western. “We were just prepared just coming here. Even for the gym, the loudness, the fans on the baseline — everything. Everything you saw in there, we were ready for.”

After allowing Western to hang around for the first five minutes of

the second half, watching the Griffons cut their lead to 14 with just over 15 minutes left to play, the Bearcats once again began to widen the gap. Within the scoring onslaught came flashes of what has defined Northwest all season.

There was an athletic, contested layup from Bernard, who finished with 11 points and 9 boards. There was a trio of 3-pointers from Hudgins, who finished the game with 28 points. There was an aggressive drive and powerful dunk from Hawkins. And

there was McCollum, waving his arms and asking Northwest fans to cheer for a team that was leading by double digits.

“Northwest is used to big games like this,” Hudgins said. “Been through it all, I guess, in the past two years. We’ve seen everything. So yeah, we live for this. This is what Northwest is about.”

The result, of course, was a 23-point win over a team who hadn’t lost at home. It pushed Northwest toward its matchup with Washburn Feb. 27, the last game

of the regular season for the Bearcats before they get set for the conference tournament, where they’ll be the No. 1 seed.

“It would have been good to struggle a bit just for the future, but we struggled a little bit the other day,” McCollum said in reference to Northwest’s 9-point win over Pittsburg State Feb. 22. “Yeah. This was good. Good win.”

After his team’s close win over Pitt State Feb. 22, McCollum expressed disappointment in his team’s readiness and focus. The

Bearcats, he said then, were reeling from a mental hangover after a last-second win over Missouri Southern Feb. 20. The hangover’s effects were evident on the court in the win over Pitt, in which Northwest trailed for the entire first half.

But in Looney Complex Feb. 25, McCollum saw renewed focus. His team was not the one reeling from a mental hangover after a win over Missouri Southern. His team was not swallowed by the moment or overwhelmed by a playoff atmosphere. His team answered the bell.

MIAA
CONTINUED FROM A12

The defeat, senior guard Kendey Eaton said, was in part due to the atmosphere.

“The atmosphere here is tough to play in; it’s hard to hear,” Eaton said. “I think a couple of times we were yelling at each other in transition and we couldn’t hear each other.”

Along with the crowd in the MWSU Fieldhouse, Western presented a brand of defense that caused the Bearcats to shoot 33.3% in the game. Northwest scored 27 points in the third quarter, the period where the Bearcats traditionally struggled the most. In the other three quarters, combined, they scored 22.

Eaton said the Griffons sped things up for the Bearcats and threw them out of sync. She also scored 16 points in the contest to lead Northwest. Her scoring spurt was complemented by juniors forward Mallory McConkey (15) and guard

Jaelyn Haggard (14). Between the other nine Bearcats that logged minutes, there were 4 points scored.

“They really get you with their pressure,” Meyer said. “It gets to you. After a while, it just kind of takes a toll on you with their length. I mean, the way they guard — it was just a tough matchup for us.”

The loss leaves the tournament bid hanging in the balance for the Bearcats. Heading into the last two weeks of the regular season, Northwest was toeing the line of either watching the postseason or being a part of it. Any win from the Bearcats in their last four games guaranteed them a spot. Any loss from Newman in its last three guaranteed Northwest a spot.

Now, the Bearcats have one last opportunity to earn their spot. That opportunity presents itself as a matchup Feb. 27 with Washburn in Bearcat Arena. If the women don’t earn it, they’ll rely on Newman to lose to either Nebraska-Kearney or Fort Hays.

“I mean, it’s big,” McConkey



Senior guard Kendey Eaton led Northwest with 16 points in the Bearcats’ 77-49 loss to Missouri Western in the MWSU Fieldhouse at Looney Complex in St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 26.

said. “Also, I think we’re gonna come out really hard. Especially last home game of the year, it’s Senior Day. I mean, I’m already looking forward to the Washburn game

and what we can do.”

“I think we’re still going in the right direction,” Meyer said. “I think we’ve got a chance to do something that hasn’t been done in

a while. ... There’s still some check marks that we can put on this season. We just gotta focus on getting better.”

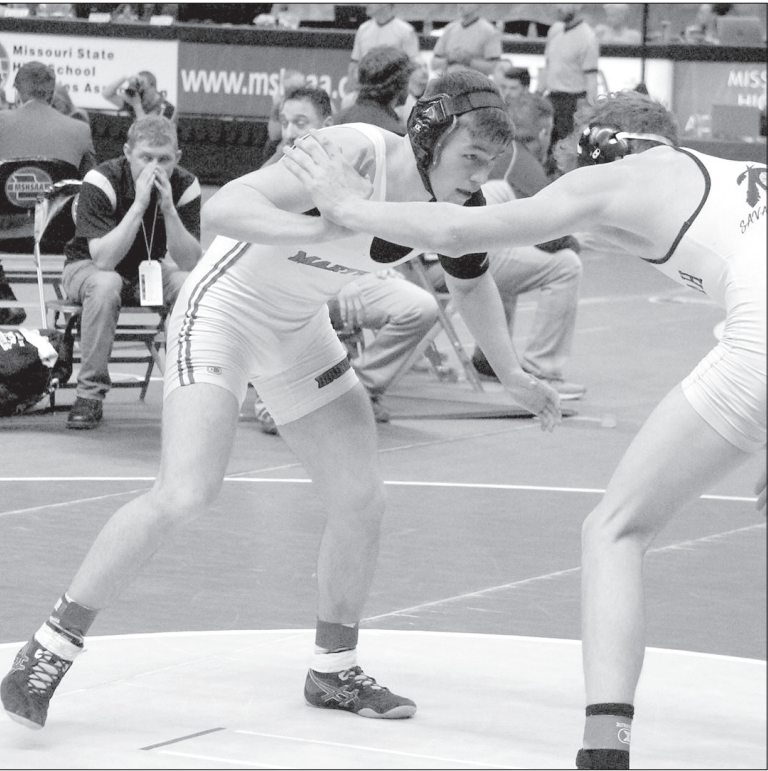


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PLATTE COUNTY CITIZEN

Maryville senior wrestler Gaven Gray-Walker earned a state medal in his last wrestling season, placing fifth at the MSHSAA Class 2 tournament.

MEDAL
CONTINUED FROM A12

For Watkins, his state run started off in the opposite direction of where he would have liked it to, dropping his first match to eventual state champion senior Kaden Dillion of Eldon High school.

Following the loss to Dillion, Watkins won a match in the consolation bracket. On the heels of that victory came a defeat that ended Watkins’ season.

“After the disappointing end to my season, I learned what I am going to have to do going into next season,” Watkins said

With one season under his belt, Barrett and assistant coach Howard Dumke will get right back to work in preparation for next season. The next few weeks, Barrett said, will be spent scheduling off-season workouts and camps.

The program, Barrett said, is at the beginning of its journey.

“No one is content,” Barrett said. “Everyone wants to continue to improve how we do things.”

1

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RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
The Northwest women’s track and field 4-x-400 meter relay won the event Feb. 22 at the Nebraska Tune-Up meet with a provisional qualifying time of 3:50.89.

Maryville boys blowout district foe en route to further postseason play

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Maryville boys basketball headed southeast Feb. 25 to Cameron High School where its first Class 3 District 16 game against Cristo Rey stood in the way of the Spoofhounds and the next round of districts.

The No. 2 seed Spoofhounds (14-10) wanted to exert their dominance over the No. 7 seed Pumas (7-12) and prove that they’re worthy of the high seeding.

Maryville brought along its uniforms, basketball shoes and the covenanted hot shooting hand to Cameron while Cristo Rey seemed to have left its gameplan on the bus. The Spoofhounds ran away with the game, eventually winning 88-23.

From the tip, Maryville senior guard Tate Oglesby showed off his basketball skills by scoring the first 6 points of the game. Junior center Marc Gustafson helped lift some of the weight off of Oglesby’s shoulders and scored the next 2 points, leading to a Puma timeout.

In an effort to slow down Maryville, Cristo Rey coach Fred Turner called a timeout. That timeout would be to no avail. Maryville jumped out to a commanding 15-2 lead and never looked back.

Cristo Rey’s zone defense was, in some ways, a failed experiment against the ‘Hounds as Gustafson proved to be the kryptonite. On multiple occasions, a Spoofhound guard crashed the paint, drawing the two middle defenders with him. Those instances left Gustafson with a heaping plate of wide-open layups.

Maryville coach Matt Stoecklein loved the team’s ability to exploit the zone.

“Especially against that zone, the team moved the ball so well from dead spot to the middle,” Stoecklein said. “They scored so easily, were able to paint threes, and they looked really good.”

The high scoring offense allowed Maryville to pull away and start searching for hidden gems on the bench. Senior guards Tylan Perry and Kelby Derr were the diamonds in the rough.

Perry began the game slowly, missing his first couple of shot attempts, but his shots found the bottom of the net in the second half. His completed 3-pointer in the first minute of the second half led way to an eventual 11 points. Derr unleashed his inner shooter and tallied three 3-pointers en route to scoring 12 points.

“I just had great teammates who were able to get open,” Perry said. “I saw the gaps in the zone and just

UP NEXT

MHS vs Lathrop
6:45 p.m. Feb. 27
Cameron, Missouri

hit them. The zone was giving me great looks.”

Stoecklein was ecstatic to see the two seniors get a chance to shine in district play.

“Perry and Derr did so much tonight,” Stoecklein said. “They hit shots, hit inside stuff and did a lot of the other things too like getting loose balls. I’m so happy for those two seniors to have the night that they did.”

Perry and Derr weren’t the lone players off the bench that contributed to the outpouring of points. Junior guard Justin Stapes hit a 3-pointer, freshman guard Keaton Stone tallied 2 points and sophomore guard Spencer Willnerd had 3 points.

The 31 Spoofhound bench points were more than all the points combined from Cristo Rey. The ability to have an impressive performance from the bench and build trust with players has Stoecklein in a good position.

“It’s a good sign you can get that many bench points and play that well with them,” Stoecklein said. “If they can continue to perform like they did tonight, we’ll look for them in other games.”

Despite the scoring spurt from the bench, the two starters in Oglesby and Gustafson paved the way for a blowout. Gustafson led all scorers with 17 points, and asserted his dominance down low with multiple putbacks, rebounds and the ability to get fouled and make the shot. Oglesby finished with 16 points, including two 3-pointers.

The win for Maryville was in part due to the lack of execution from Cristo Rey’s offensive gameplan. It was also in part because of the Spoofhounds’ stifling defense.

The ‘Hounds were doubling off screens, applying pressure beyond the 3-point line, and causing the Pumas to have costly turnovers. The stout defensive performance was praised by Stoecklein.

“They played pretty hard on defense,” Stoecklein said. “There have been games where we haven’t worked as hard as we needed to, and that’s the biggest factor. Tonight great defense led to some good offense.”

A loss tonight would’ve sent the Spoofhounds back to Maryville until next basketball season. Perry discussed what it felt like playing in the district tournament one last time, win or lose.

Track and field prepares for MIAA Championships

NATHAN ENGLISH
Sports Reporter | @ThananEnglish



The week that Northwest indoor track and field has been waiting for is finally here. The Bearcats will be competing for a chance to etch their names in the MIAA history books at the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships Feb. 28-March 1 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Coach Brandon Masters has geared the whole season around getting the athletes ready for postseason competition. There is a palpable excitement around the team now that the week they have all been waiting for is finally here, along with a strong sense of determination.

“Everybody is definitely starting to get more serious compared to the last couple of weeks,” senior Tyrell Maddox said. “We all have that set goal in mind of trying to win conference.”

The men come into the meet more or less the favorites as they are the top-ranked team in the MIAA by USTFCCCA. Masters wants the men to keep the hunter mentality that has been their mindset all year and said that Missouri Southern is the team to beat in the MIAA.

“We have to have that mentality, we’re not defending anything. You have to win something first,” Masters said. “Until you’ve won something, you are always the underdog, in my mind.”

The men fell 6 points shy of a conference title in 2019, and they

are looking to avenge that loss.

The women head into the conference meet in a different situation. While being ranked third nationally in USTFCCCA, the women are not favored for the conference title because of the strength of the MIAA. The women are still going into Pittsburg State confident, senior Hiba Mahgoub said.

“I just think our team is really ready for it after what we did this weekend or the past weekend before that. We had really great marks and times,” Mahgoub said.

Mahgoub is coming off a strong showing at the Nebraska Tune-Up Feb. 21 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The senior sprinter set a program and personal record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23 seconds and 89 milliseconds, which automatically qualified her for the NCAA Division II National Championships.

Mahgoub was also the first runner in the women’s 4-x-400 team with sophomores Addie Palser, Moe Bianchi and freshman Aliyah Simmons, which took home the crown at the Nebraska Tune-Up. The team ran a time of 3:50.89, which is a provisional qualifying time for nationals.

“As far as I’m concerned, she is the girl to beat at the national level as far as the 400 and the 200,” Masters said of Mahgoub.

Mahgoub is one of the leaders on the women’s side along with fellow senior Jordan Hammond

UP NEXT

NW @ MIAA Championship
Feb. 28-March 1
Pittsburg, Kansas

among others. The women struggle from having a lack of depth, Masters said, which will make winning a conference title in the highly competitive MIAA more difficult.

“We have to do everything right because we don’t have the depth,” Masters said. “Not as many of our women are in scoring positions across the board.”

Depth is more important to a conference victory than success at nationals, Masters said, given the number of athletes that will compete at both. Conference is scored on a points system based on top eight finishes. The more depth, the larger the chance a team will have at securing those spots.

The scoring of conference requires a lot of strategy from the coaching staff on where to place people in events. Athletes need to be placed in the events they are most likely to get a top-eight finish in.

These events don’t necessarily need to be the athlete’s primary event. Mahgoub remembers at conference last year when she was running against a woman who was primarily a jumper up until conference.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN
Maryville girls basketball freshman forward Rylee Vierthaler has started every game for the Spoofhounds in the 2019-20 season. Vierthaler, coach Quentin Albrecht said, is a focal point of the program’s success.

Freshman forward plays key role for Maryville girls hoops

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

A common phrase that’s reverberated throughout sports is that hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard. It’s something one of a kind when the talent also works hard.

Maryville girls basketball Rylee Vierthaler started off on her basketball journey when she was in third grade but didn’t start picking up a passion for it until she reached the sixth grade. The 5-foot-10-inch freshman forward said she had to travel in order to play on a competitive team.

“I started playing on a team in Kansas City,” Vierthaler said. “I like competing overall, so it’s a fun sport to compete in, especially with the team aspect.”

The instant she discovered her passion for the game, she had the opportunity to test her competitive spirit against older opponents. Maryville coach Quentin Albrecht said he remembers watching the sixth grade Vierthaler playing with seventh and eighth-graders.

“I remember her and Anastyn Pettlon both playing as really young kids,” Albrecht said. “I thought that they’ll take their lumps early but playing against older kids would make them better in the long run, and it really has.”

This season, Vierthaler and Pettlon earned starting varsity spots and helped the Spoofhounds to a conference championship and get in position to compete for a district championship. Vierthaler enjoys the success the team has found and enjoys being a Spoofhound.

“It means a lot (to be on the team). It’s very fun to play with

such a good team.” Vierthaler said. “For me, I know our coaches have pushed all of us to do so well.”

The team sport aspect of basketball is important to Vierthaler. She is slow to focus on her own performance and the reward of winning together, for her, outweighs the disappointment of a bad game.

In the third quarter of the Feb. 20 game against Savannah, the freshman fouled out with 4 points to her name. However, this didn’t change her enthusiasm towards the team’s emphatic win and its new conference title.

“It felt so good to win,” Vierthaler said. “It was such a big win and getting to put another number on the board for a conference title was good.”

Vierthaler’s team-oriented mindset goes beyond the statistics. Being the new kid on the block typically results in learning the ropes from people who have been around. She attributed that helping hands from her teammates. Vierthaler said that her teammates are what keep her working so hard and help her stay focused on what she must do in order to play to her best ability.

Aside from the motivation she receives from her team, her self-motivation gives her an extra boost to train beyond the time she practices. Albrecht is impressed with how often Vierthaler will text or call him to unlock the gym to shoot around. He said it is never an inconvenience for him because that is the type of player he likes.

“The thing that stands out to me about Rylee is her passion for the game,” Albrecht said. “She is one of the three girls who almost compete to see who can stay in the

UP NEXT

MHS @ District Tournament
6 p.m. Feb. 28
Cameron, Missouri

gym the longest. She is a basketball player first and you build your program around people like her.”

Vierthaler also plays volleyball for Maryville in the fall but is completely sold on playing basketball.

Her work transformed her talent into a valued piece of Maryville’s top tier team in its district, but she never let’s that get ahead of her. Vierthaler’s ideas on how she continues to stay at her best stem from her upbeat personality. During games, she likes to keep her thoughts light and not bring stress to her favorite sport.

“I’m always laughing, almost to the point where it’s probably too much,” Vierthaler said. “I know when to be serious, but I like to have a good time.”

Her kind and fun-loving demeanor is met with good reception. Albrecht enjoys having her as a player and counts getting to know her this season as a pleasure. The talent she brings to the table, Albrecht said, is never met with arrogance, and she refuses to put herself above anyone else.

On top of the recognition she received for being the person that she is, Vierthaler quickly received praise for her value on the court.

“She brings versatility. We can play her inside but also bring her out on the perimeter more as a three-guard,” Albrecht said.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Tennis readies for debut match

CRAIG MCMULLEN
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

Two Northwest men's tennis players prepare for their first match as the Bearcats get ready to play William Jewel Feb. 28 in Liberty, Missouri.



Sophomore Martin Sanchez from Argentina finished high school in 2016 and came to the United States in January 2019 to play for the Northwest tennis team. After research and interviews, Sanchez decided that Northwest would be the best fit for him. He also knew two other players on the team, and they talked to him about how it was being at Northwest.

Sanchez prepared differently in Argentina compared to preparing for games at Northwest.

"In Argentina, I was preparing by myself and I would just listen to music and practice," Sanchez said. "At Northwest, it is different because we start with stretching all together and then coach talks to us about how we are going to play."

Sanchez that he is preparing for

the game by conditioning and then practicing every day. His goals this season are to help the team go to nationals and he would like to win more matches compared to the matches he won last year.

Another Bearcat preparing for his first match against the Cardinals is freshman Sawyer Nickel. He started playing tennis when he was 7 and started playing more competitively and doing tournaments when he was 10.

Similar to Sanchez, Nickel's preparation for Northwest is different compared to high school.

"In high school, there is not that much pressure compared to college," Nickel said. "In college, you are representing a lot more people than in high school. I am taking it a lot more seriously now because I know it means a lot to my teammates."

Nickel is preparing for his first match as a Bearcat by practicing and doing things that all the other guys are doing. He has got some advice on how to prepare from the upperclassmen that have been through this in previous years.

"This season, my goals are to get

UP NEXT

NW @ William Jewel

11 a.m. Feb. 28

Liberty, Missouri

better and play my hardest," Nickel said. "Individually, I want to contribute to the team as much as possible, and as a team, our goal should be to get to Nationals."

In his first year, Nickel is looking forward to getting closer to his teammates and being able to compete with them at the college level.

Sanchez is excited to play for and work with coach Mark Rosewell.

"He has been here for a long time, and he has won a lot of big matches, so he knows how to prepare his team and his lineups," Sanchez said.

For Nickel, the feeling is mutual.

"He knows how to motivate us and keep us on the right track," Nickel said. "He wants to see the best in us and push us to be our best; that is something you like to see in a coach and that's what makes him a great coach."



FILE | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest men's tennis sophomore Louis Compas is a native of Reims, France. Compas, along with 16 other tennis players, are from a foreign country. The Bearcats debut against William Jewel Feb. 28 in Liberty, Missouri.

Softball struggles to find success on road

JESS GREIMAN
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

A rough opening act to the 2020 Northwest softball season continued with a 1-4 road trip to the 5-States Classic Feb. 21-23 in Emporia, Kansas. A lone win over Minnesota Duluth (5-6) and losses to Maryville (5-7), Concordia-St. Paul (4-5), Wayne State (5-4) and Minnesota State (7-3) resulted in the Bearcats falling to a record of 3-11 as MIAA competition draws nearer.



Northwest began their slate of games with a game Friday against Maryville which saw sophomore left fielder Jacee Winn score two runs off of two RBIs from senior center fielder Sydne Brashear courtesy of her double in the third inning and a sacrifice groundout in the fifth inning.

The Bearcats would score one more run on a solo homerun from sophomore right fielder Olivia Daugherty but ultimately lost 6-3 after allowing the Saints to score in four straight innings.

Following that matchup, Northwest took on Minnesota Duluth, opening the game with two solo home runs in the first inning by Brashear and senior shortstop Kaitlyn Weis. Despite not scoring for the remainder of the game, the Bearcats would retain their lead and defeat the Bulldogs 2-1, giving se-

nior pitcher Rachel Smith her second win of the year. Coach Ryan Anderson, however, felt that there was still a great deal of room for improvement.

"Rachel pitched very well, but we had a chance to score more and that's the mindset we have to realize, to keep going and keep swinging, and the bats are going to come through," Anderson said.

Saturday began with Northwest taking on Concordia-St. Paul for the third time this year with the squads having split the first two meetings. Two runs were tallied, one by senior third baseman Erin Keeney who reached home on a single from freshman second baseman Abby Nolte in the sixth inning and another by Weis who scored on a solo home run for the second day in a row in the seventh inning. Despite both teams recording nine hits, the Golden Bears would steal four bases, taking greater advantage of their opportunities and defeating Northwest 6-2.

The Bearcats would follow that game with their best offensive output of the trip, scoring five runs in a game against Wayne State. Nolte scored once again, this time taking home off of a wild pitch in the second inning. Sophomore catcher Ady Watts would also score in the second inning, reaching home from third base on a fielding error.

Winn would score for a second straight day in the fourth inning

UP NEXT

NW @ Drury Invitational

Feb. 29-March 1

Springfield, Missouri

after an outfield single from Weis. The Bearcats' final two runs came in the sixth inning when Daugherty reached home on a sacrifice flyout by Weis and Brashear scored on an outfield single by senior first baseman Karli Allen. Regardless of their offensive successes, Northwest would surrender six runs to the Wildcats, losing 6-5.

The 'Cats would finish their road trip with a single game against Minnesota State on Sunday. However, they would be shut out, producing four hits in an 8-0 defeat to the Mavericks. The Bearcats suffered a combination of problems defensively as well, committing two errors and allowing eight runs on nine hits.

"On paper, the stats didn't look great, but we're getting to where we need to be," Anderson said, reflecting on the trip. "We'll keep fighting, keep playing and get better."

The Bearcats will have one more opportunity before MIAA play begins with a trip Feb. 29 and March 1 to the Drury Invitational in Springfield, Missouri. They will have an opportunity to avenge their loss to Wayne State along with games against Drury (6-4), Newman (3-10) and Southwest Baptist (1-10).

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Northwest men's basketball coach Ben McCollum attempts to pump up Northwest supporters while the Bearcats led the Griffons by double digits in their 92-69 win Feb. 25 at Looney Complex in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Bell answered.

Men hand Western first home loss

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Eleven times this season, Missouri Western's men's basketball team had entered matchups on its home court at Looney Complex and walked away with victories, engaging in a midcourt celebration after each game to "Ring The Bell."

Throughout their entire conference season, the Griffons rolled a golden bell to center court after each home win, where the players and coaching staff gathered around to ring it. The latest ringing came after an 89-85 upset win over No. 17 Missouri Southern, the No. 2 team in the MIAA. The Griffons were two wins away from completing a 13-0 sweep of their home slate, two wins away from a perfect season inside the MWSU Fieldhouse at Looney Complex.

In front of 4,245 fans at the complex Feb. 25, Western entered a matchup with Northwest men's basketball that came with a postseason environment. There was a Western student section that didn't sit for four quarters. There was the No. 1 team in the country squaring off with the No. 3 team in the MIAA. And at the end of the anticipated rivalry matchup, there was no bell ringing.

There was a once-sold-out gym that sat half-empty. There was a round of unassuming handshakes exchanged between the players and



coaching staffs of each team. And there was Northwest (27-1, 17-1 MIAA) heading back to Maryville with a 92-69 over Missouri Western in hand, claiming its 19th consecutive victory and becoming the first to beat the Griffons at Looney Complex this season.

"Just from the success that we've had, we haven't had a lot of 'firsts' this season," coach Ben McCollum said. "So to be able to be the first is really good. (The Griffons) are really good at home, and they kind of got it rolling offensively and defensively, and we're fortunate enough to come away with a win."

Facing a hostile road environment in the rivalry matchup — one in which Missouri Western students routinely shouted taunts and obscenities towards the Bearcats, namely sophomore guard and St. Joseph native Deigo Bernard — it took Northwest six minutes and 56 seconds to find its first lead of the matchup. Western played catch-up for the rest of the contest.

The at-times deafening crowd at Looney Complex provided a post-season-type environment for the late-season conference matchup, one in which Northwest is used to playing in and one that proved overwhelming to the home team.

Western guard Tyrell Carroll said the conditions caused the Griffons to play selfishly in the matchup's early-going. For the most part,

UP NEXT

NW vs Washburn
7:30 p.m. Feb. 27
Bearcat Arena

they weren't equipped to handle the moment.

McCollum said the Bearcats were affected by their surroundings in the game's first five minutes. They rushed through offensive possessions and failed to properly execute defensive schemes, he said. After the Bearcats found their footing, they ran away with the contest.

"That kind of environment is tough — that kind of championship-type environment is really tough, even (for) us," McCollum said. "First five minutes, it was like we were in another world. Like, 'Guys, slow down.'"

The Bearcats escaped the first five minutes of the matchup unscathed and the first seven minutes with a lead they wouldn't surrender. In the moments before halftime, the Bearcats drained three 3-pointers on back-to-back-to-back possessions, two of which came off the hand of freshman swingman Luke Waters, to help build an 18-point lead. They entered the locker room at halftime — showered with taunts on their way off the court — with a 44-26 lead on the back of 17 points from junior

SEE BLOWOUT | A9

'Cats leave Western without MIAA bid

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Prior to Northwest women's basketball making the 45-minute trip south Feb. 25 to face rival Missouri Western, the Bearcats had two games to earn their way into the MIAA Tournament.

Due to a 77-49 loss to the Griffons, the Bearcats now have one.

"We now have two guaranteed days left of the season," Northwest coach Austin Meyer said. "We've gotta put this one past us and come out and compete against Washburn."

Similar to the first matchup between the two, Western (20-7, 12-6 MIAA) attacked Northwest (11-16, 6-12 MIAA) in the post. The Griffons' junior forward Corbyn Cunningham made her presence felt, tallying 26 points and 16 rebounds. In some ways, Cunningham's efforts were reflective of the contest. Western dominated in the post and Northwest struggled to stop the Griffons from doing so.

During the season, Northwest



has found success on the scoreboard when it does on the glass. Against the Griffons, the Bearcats were outrebounded 40-25. The lack of execution in the post, Meyer said, is due to how stout the post players for Western are.

"I thought we did a pretty good job defensively against them last time in the post," Meyer said. "This time, we really struggled. Give them credit. ... They're just really good."

The Bearcats become an addition to the collection of teams that Western has beaten at home.

Three weeks prior to the matchup, Meyer said the Bearcats, in some ways, have more success on the road than they do in Bearcat Arena. Western touted a 12-2 record prior to hosting Northwest.

SEE MIAA | A9

UP NEXT

NW vs Washburn
5:30 p.m. Feb. 27
Bearcat Arena



Junior guard Mallory McConkey scored 15 points in Northwest women's basketball's 77-49 loss to Missouri Western Feb. 25 in St. Joseph, Missouri.

SEE MEDAL | A9

Maryville wrestler concludes season on podium

ROMAN METCALF
Sports Reporter | @Roman_Metcalf87

Maryville wrestling ended its season at the MSHSAA State Championships Feb. 20-22 in Columbia, Missouri, at Mizzou Arena.

Under first-year coach Dallas Barrett, the 'Hounds finished the MSHSAA State Championships by ranking eighth in Class 2 with a total 16 team points. They finished 29th overall in the team rankings.

For Barrett, the trip to Mizzou Arena was his first since he reached the tournament in high school. That, he said, was a good feeling.

"I'm still soaking it in," Barrett said. "It's my first time being there since 2006. I had a great time with some great kids and families that accompanied us."

"Barrett's trip was accompanied by two wrestlers from the team: senior Gaven Gray and junior Kieren Watkins."

No matter the results, the tournament would be some of the last matches that Gray would wrestle in his career.



"It was really special for me," Gray said. "That was my first time placing, and I'm glad I got to end my wrestling career like that."

Gray started the tournament with a pin in his first match. A win gave Gray the rest of the day off to await the second day of action.

For Gray to be a state champion, of course, he had to win four more matches in a row. He had to win two more in a row to guarantee that he placed.

"After the match I knew it wasn't anything to celebrate," Gray said. "I wanted to maintain my focus and get ready for my next match. It felt good going out there and dominating my first opponent at state like that."

In the quarterfinals, Gray found himself down 10-2 going into the second period of his match. The tall task that the deficit presented was what stood between Gray and the semifinals.

"I knew I needed something big," Gray said. "I didn't think he was better than me; I just wasn't wrestling good. So when he took a shot, I just set up my move and caught him with it."

Barrett said he had all of his confidence in Gray and knew if he wrestled his brand of wrestling, he could be dangerous and overcome the 8-point deficit.

"I really just wanted him to keep composed and work his stuff," Barrett said. "Gaven has a high wrestling IQ so no one is ever safe with a lead. He saw the opportunity and made his opponent pay for making the smallest of mistakes."

In the second period of the match, Gray's plan was to get points and start making a comeback. His plan was spoiled when his opponent presented the opportunity for a pin. The comeback was mounted when Gray took advantage of that opportunity and won the match.

"The coaches were pumped after that match," Gray said. "We knew I had to wrestle better but they told me, 'It's not about what mistakes you made; it's about how you capitalize on their mistakes,' and that's what I did."

After the win, Gray dropped his next match. That put him in the consolation bracket, meaning he could still medal but not be a state champion. His tournament run, and career, came to an end with an eventual fifth-place medal.



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